

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman

Tsunetaro Miyakoda

Published by the Commission on Public Relations

of the National Christian Council of Japan

Editors:

Kaname Tsukahara

Robert W. Northup

William C. Weiss

CABLE CODE: JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS: CHRISTIAN CENTER, 24-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

Subscription Rates: Japan ¥700; Foreign Sea mail) \$2.00; (Air mail) \$3.50.

No. 164

April 15, 1960

In These Pages

Annual Kyodan Related Missionary Conference Held March 29 -	
Help Us Help You	April 1 . . . 1
National Christian Council Summer Service Projects	2
Miss Von Reiswitz Reports on Prostitute Rehabilitation	3
Bishop Goto of the Nippon Seikokai to Make Trip to United States . .	4

ANNUAL KYODAN RELATED MISSIONARY CONFERENCE HELD MARCH 29 - APRIL 1

Under the leadership of Rev. Mr. Ian MacLeod, the Hokkaido area missionaries organized the conference around the theme 'A Faith to Proclaim'.

The conference opened on Tuesday with Rev. Mr. Keikichi Shirai, Moderator of the United Church in Japan, bringing greetings. After sketching a brief historical background of the Christian faith and the difficulties of the Christians, he mentioned the discouraging aspects to propagating the faith. Yet he urged them on saying that in spite of the difficulties there is still hope.

Professor Kazuo Kitamori of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary, well known for his book 'Theology of the Pain of God', gave two lectures. In the first he discussed 'Japanese Mentality and Religion', stressing the desire for 'escape' and 'non-entanglement' as characteristics of the Japanese mentality in contrast to the Christian and communist who feel moved to action. He illustrated his point with quotations from 'Haiku' (the people's poetry) and from Professor Karude Izamu's comments and from the famous novelist Natsume Soseki. He characterized Japanese literature as aesthetic and natural and mentioned religion is neutralized by natural-ascetic contemplation and non-involvement. In the second lecture he discussed the book of Suzuki, a Buddhist priest who lived in America for a number of years. In his book Suzuki compared Buddhism and Christianity, being very critical of the latter. He contrasted the Japanese soul and culture as being embraced in a 'mother

concept', a mother embraces all unconditionally in her love accepting all as it is. Whereas he criticized the Christian God as a Father being a God of Law. Further contrasted the Psychology of the oriental as having its root before the separation of the subject and object or before God said, "Let there be light." However in the west, the psychology devotes itself to the phenomena after the light appears. Professor Kitamori criticized these underlying presuppositions and then discussed the 'mushrooming' growth of the new religions.

Dr. C.W. Iglehart also delivered two lectures. The first centered around the need to liberate energy and life from the encrustations that constrain it as it develops into structures and institutions. He stressed the need for a coherent doctrine of men and stressed also the need to test doctrine by person-"bring it out into life and check it." The second lecture was slanted more toward the Christian in society in an over-all perspective on the world scene.

Dr. Howard Thurman attended the conference and spoke one evening and also Miss Suzie Kachelhoffer, a missionary from South Africa, spoke on the background of the present racial problem in her country.

HELP US HELP YOU

As you know this paper is sent to many places around the world. We know you want Christians in other countries to know what Christian work is being done here in Japan. Help us give them a balanced picture. We rely on YOU. Please send us items of interest about what God is doing in your midst!

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL SUMMER SERVICE PROJECTS

This year under the direction of the Summer Service Projects of the Youth Committee of the NCC four projects will be held. They are:

1. An Ecumenical work camp in the typhoon damaged area in Nagoya where the participants will help the community through relief and construction work. It will be held from July 20-August 17. Anyone between the ages of 19-30 may apply. The participation fee is \$ 12.00 or 4,000.yen.
2. High school work campers will be located in Nagashima-machi and Misamisakimura, Kuwana-gun, Mie-ken for the purpose of doing much the same kind of work as the Ecumenical work camp. It will be held from July 27-August 11. The participation fee is 2,000 yen. Both camps are being planned for about 30 students, and will have the emphasis of Christian community and witness through the testimony of work.
3. Youth caravans are also planned for areas where there is need for pioneer evangelism or for helping in local churches. The small groups will help in local church youth programs, conduct evangelistic meetings and Bible classes and direct recreation. They will be held from July 20 - August 10 in churches along the Takayama railway line in Gifu prefecture. The participation fee is 3,000 yen.
4. Students in industry-program is to be held in Osaka from July 20-August 17. The students will hold regular jobs and have discussions with laborers, management and community leaders, seeking to find the relevance of their Christian faith to economic life. Students will live together and their earnings will cover living costs. The participation fee is 5000 yen. Japanese language will be used.

For further information write:

The Summer Service Projects of the Youth Committee
The National Christian Council of Japan
Kyobunkwan Building, 2, 4-chome, Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Telephone 561-5003

MISS VON REISWITZ REPORTS ON PROSTITUTE REHABILITATION

Miss von Reiswitz spoke to the language students recently giving a short summary of her work and the difficulties they encounter in street evangelism. Mitte Nache Missionne was started in Germany about one hundred years ago by laymen. Eventually the church realized its responsibility and today laymen and trained missionaries work together. They came to Japan in response to a special invitation from Dr. Kagawa and some other Japanese Christians over six years ago.

The work is done thru street evangelism as missionary and Japanese workers go out into the streets and bars seeking contact with the girls. 150 tracts are quickly given out in one evening in some quarters of Tokyo, where there are over 17 such districts. Direct contact with the girls has become more difficult since the anti-prostitution law went into effect, the old places have a new look. Cabarets and bars line the street and instead of the girls, young men stand outside to get business. Although the girls are free from obligation and debt to 'Brothel Owners' by law, it is difficult for them to get to the police because of violence and underground elements, and also they fear that some action might be taken against their families. In every ward in Tokyo case workers are ready to help the girls, but they have no authority to approach the girls. They can only help those who come of their own free will or if the girl is brought in for breaking the law. The WCTU was very active in getting the law passed but as reported in the last issue, the law is very weak and the police find it very hard to cope with the situation. The second phase of the work is done in rehabilitation centers, where girls are referred from government offices. Some 'homes' are small as the one of the Midnite Mission, where girls live in and pay for their food only. In the home they have opportunities to study flower arranging, knitting, sewing and also through morning prayer meetings, hymn singing they are presented with the message of the Gospel. The present home can accommodate about 6-7 girls. At present plans are underway to set up a new center in Chiba, near Tokyo. It will probably cost about \$ 15,000. The church in Chiba held a concert to raise some money toward the new building this spring. The government gives very little toward the support of the 'rehabilities'-less than 20% a day and only on condition that the institution was in existence prior to the law or if the institution can handle over 50. It is also possible to have the government support one office girl. Plans now are to set up different types of homes to help the different types of cases. Narcotics for example has become quite a problem for some of the women.

In discussing why girls get into this work, Miss von Reiswitz said that many are run-aways from homes where they don't fit in. Others come to the city to find a job and give up too easily after they are caught in a situation. Many are brought in by force through deception, when they feel they have been employed by a company that sent men out to recruit labor from the country or at times of disasters when families are hard pressed for money and for a small sum they 'buy' the girl.

In closing, she said that although the law is weak there is a change in the family due to the law and it is having an effect, but a stronger law is needed.

BISHOP GOTO OF THE NIPPON SEIKOKAI TO MAKE TRIP TO UNITED STATES

Bishop David Goto of the Anglican-Episcopal Diocese of Tokyo will be granted an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity by the Virginia Theological Seminary, at the graduation exercises in May. Bishop Goto is a graduate of the Seminary in the class of 1936. His trip is made possible by a group of alumni among whom are several classmates.

Bishop Goto was consecrated the Fifth Bishop of Tokyo in November 1959, in colorful rites held at St. Margaret's School Chapel. The consecration was second only to the celebration of the Centennial of the Seikokai as an outstanding event of the year. He was elected to succeed the Rt. Rev. Timothy Makoto Makita who was obliged to retire as diocesan of Tokyo because of poor health. He graduated from Waseda University, Tokyo, before attending the Virginia Seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1940 and became chaplain of St. Margaret's School. From 1943 to the end of the war he served in the Japanese Army Transportation Corps. And since 1947 he has been a chaplain and professor at St. Paul's University, Tokyo. Noted for translating works of William Temple and Paul Tillich, Bishop Goto has written two books and numerous articles in the fields of ethics and church history.

In addition to bringing Bishop Goto to America, the alumni of the Virginia Seminary are making it possible for him to visit the church in several cities. He will address the Synod of the Eighth Province of the Church, in Los Angeles, and meet with church groups in San Francisco, Chicago, Detroit, New York and Washington. The Chairman of the committee on arrangements is the Rev. Stephen Walk of Hagerstown, Maryland, and the committee includes among others, The Very Rev. Felix Cloman of Washington and the Rev. Walter Russell Bowie.

This will be the third trip to the United States for Bishop Goto. The second time, he attended a seminar on the relation of Christianity and Communism held at Union Theological Seminary, New York, in the spring of 1953. Bishop Goto will leave for America on April 27 and return to Japan by the middle of June.

